

KIEF NEWS

English Edition No.74 2014.3

★ TOPIC 1 ~ Events in the Works ~

The Kanazawa International Exchange Foundation regularly holds events catering to foreign residents and exchange students to promote cultural exchange in Kanazawa. Below is a glimpse of exciting events that we are planning to hold later in the year!

International Friendship Festival 2014

The dates for this year's International Friendship Festival have come out! This year we are planning for more exciting performances, activity corners, and food booths so that you can sample cultures and tastes from all around the world! As always, admission is free.



FREE
ADMISSION!!

Date : **June 28th (Sat) – 29th (Sun) 10:00 – 16:00**

Venue : **Shiinoki Cultural Complex Ishi-no-Hiroba Plaza and Open Lawn Area**

“Re-discover Kanazawa” Tours

How well do you know Kanazawa?

With Japanese-speaking foreign residents of Kanazawa who want to expand their knowledge of the history and culture of Kanazawa in mind, “Re-discover Kanazawa” Tours are designed according to the contents of the beginner's level of the Kanazawa Kentei exam. The tours will be conducted using public transportation. Participants will be quizzed on questions from the Kentei exam as they explore the streets of Kanazawa. Think you know all there is to know about the Kenrokuen Garden or Kanazawa Castle? Just arrived and want a 特急 (limited express train) to little-known facts about this city? This is the event for you!

“ Home-cooking From Around the World ” Cooking Classes

Seeing the popularity of our CIR cooking classes and the food booths at the International Friendship Festival, there is apparently a high demand for classes featuring a variety of cuisines. That is why we are looking to invite foreign residents of Kanazawa to teach simple home-style recipes and introduce the culture, history, and traditions of their native country in the process!

If you are interested in participating in these events as a lecturer or volunteer, don't hesitate to contact us. Be on the lookout for future updates on our website at www2.kief.jp!

★ TOPIC 2 CIR Recommendations : Books Related to Japan

Julie Valk (France)

*Kimono : Fashioning Culture*, by Liza Dalby (Hotai Publishing, 2001)

If you are drawn to Japan's national dress with its profusion of layers and mesmerising patterns, then this book is for you! Anthropologist Liza Dalby draws up a comprehensive history of the kimono and demonstrates how the garment lies at the heart of Japanese sensibilities. This book is particularly interesting for anyone who wants to read an accessible overview of the kimono yet go deeper than common knowledge such as kimonos worn during tea ceremony.

The author's style is smooth and easy to read, and you don't need any prior knowledge to understand her in-depth analysis of the kimono's history, its evolution and its role in pre-modern and contemporary Japanese society. The author includes the kimono and other forms of traditional Japanese dress, making for an interesting comparison. After reading *Fashioning Culture*, you'll be sure to impress with your newfound knowledge of Japan's beautiful national dress!

Werner Vanhorenbeeck (Belgium)

Hebi ni Piasu, by Hitomi Kanehara (Shueisha Publishing Co., 2003)

The first book I would recommend is the first book I read in Japanese, the award-winning *Hebi ni Piasu* (Snakes and Earrings) from Hitomi Kanehara. This young author tends to write about controversial issues such as the Japanese underworld. *Hebi ni Piasu* is the story about a young girl with a fascination for tattoos, piercings and the splitting of her tongue. The story describes the progress of her tattoo and splitting her tongue along with her life going into a downwards spiral of alcoholism, isolation and depression. Although Miss Kanehara never finished high school, she is the youngest author to have ever received the prestigious Akutagawa prize. If you're looking for something different, and an easy Japanese read, *Hebi ni Piasu* or any of Kanehara's later novels might be something for you.

*Gai-Jin*, by James Clavell (Delacorte Press, 1993)

The second book I would like to recommend is *Gai-jin*, the third book in Clavell's Asian Saga. Clavell tends to write fictional renditions of historical events. *Gai-Jin* is based on the Namamugi Incident of 1862. A British national and his companions were assaulted and slain by the regent of Satsuma. This incident caused tensions between Japan and Britain and eventually led to what is now known as the Anglo-Satsuma War. I would recommend anyone to read Clavell's take on the Namamugi Incident.

Amanda Ng (USA)

*Fruits*, by Shoichi Aoki (Phaidon Press, 2001)

To anyone who is interested in the culture and fashion of today's urban youth in Japan, *Fruits* is a collection of portraits of youth street fashion taken in the Harajuku district of Tokyo. Originally featured in Aoki's ongoing Japanese fashion magazine *Fruits*, these fashion portraits were an endless source of fascination for me in college. Harajuku is famous for being a constant source of new fashion trends, and the originality of the fashions showcased in this book only prove that it more than deserves that reputation. A nice touch is that with each picture, Aoki also includes a description of the person's age, interests, and what they feel the "point of fashion" of their outfit is.

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